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United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report presents an overview of activities undertaken by the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) since June 2014. It is organized around the nine clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of the United Nations agencies working in Africa.

During the review period, the United Nations system continued to strengthen its support in respect of the implementation of the NEPAD and African Union strategic plans for the period 2014-2017, notably in the context of the Year of Agriculture and Food Security in Africa and Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063 proclaimed by the African Union, as well as infrastructure. The United Nations system strongly supported the African Union and subregional institutions in the fight against Ebola. Following the adoption of Agenda 2063 by the African Union at the twenty-fourth ordinary session of its Assembly, in January 2015, the United Nations has been working to refocus its partnership with the African Union and strengthen the Regional Coordination Mechanism in order to support the Strategic Plan 2014-2017 of the African Union Commission and the 10-Year Implementation Plan for Agenda 2063.

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I. Introduction

1. At its forty-fifth session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to report to the Committee at its forty-sixth session, and annually thereafter, on the support provided by the United Nations system to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The request was endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 69/17.

II. Support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

2. The present report highlights activities implemented by the United Nations system in support of NEPAD since June 2014, organized around nine thematic clusters corresponding to the priorities of NEPAD and co-chaired by United Nations entities and the African Union Commission. It was prepared on the basis of inputs received from the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and the departments of the Secretariat in response to the request by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa for contributions regarding key activities, programmes and projects implemented in the period 2014-2015, highlighting results and impact in both qualitative and quantitative terms.

3. The report benefited from the first report of the United Nations monitoring mechanism on the review of the implementation of the commitments made towards Africa's development (A/69/163), which reviewed four areas: (a) agriculture, food security and nutrition; (b) financing for development; (c) environmental sustainability and climate change; and (d) governance.

A. Infrastructure development

4. The infrastructure cluster co-coordinated by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) comprises four subclusters: energy, information and communications technology, transport, and water and sanitation.

5. During the review period, cluster members continued to support the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. In June 2014, ECA, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and the African Development Bank (AfDB) partnered with the NEPAD Agency and Senegal to co-organize the Dakar Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure Development. Through the adoption of the Dakar Agenda for Action, the Summit made it possible to garner support and foster partnerships, including public-private partnerships, to accelerate the implementation of 16 Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa priority projects.

6. As a follow-up to the Dakar Financing Summit, ECA designed Project 16-16-16, a plan that focuses on supporting the implementation of the 16 priority projects by 2016. As part of Africa Week 2014, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the United Nations Global Compact and the NEPAD Agency organized a business forum for the identification of public-private partnerships to accelerate the implementation of the top eight projects emerging from the Dakar Financing

Summit. As a result, the United Nations Global Compact has been working through the Principles for Responsible Investment to raise awareness on these projects and engage more institutional investors in inclusive investment in infrastructure in Africa. Furthermore, the World Bank committed over $4 billion in support to the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa priorities in energy, transport, information and communications technology and water.

7. In the energy sector, within the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All Initiative, the World Bank supported countries in identifying investment requirements through 2030 to meet access goals. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has been implementing a $3.35 million project, financed by the Global Environment Facility, to promote micro-hydropower capacity in the rural areas of the United Republic of Tanzania: a hydropower plant with a capacity of 10 kW was constructed in Lushoto District, expanding the electricity network to more than 80 households and generating local employment.

8. In the area of information and communications technology, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) continued to support the operationalization of the Connect Africa Initiative, in particular with respect to the broadband development of the Uhurunet submarine cable and the Umojanet terrestrial network, the two segments of the NEPAD Information and Communications Technology Broadband Infrastructure Network. ITU has led the harmonization of regional and subregional information and communications technology policies and regulatory frameworks by creating the necessary environment for public and private investments in information and communications technology infrastructure in the continent. In West Africa, ITU continued to support countries to transpose the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) model laws into their national legal instruments.

9. In the transport sector, cluster members supported the preparation of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Africa Highways Network endorsed by the African Union at the twenty-third ordinary session of its Assembly, in June 2014, to promote continental integration. The World Bank has been supporting 10 corridor projects worth $2.7 billion, including new projects aimed at expanding the economic impact of corridors through integrated and intermodal corridor development. These projects will enhance trade and market access in Africa. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has been assisting 29 African States in resolving identified safety deficiencies. As a result, progress has been achieved in enhancing aviation safety in Africa.

10. To address water resource management in the Sahel region, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), through a project covering five major aquifer systems shared by 13 African countries, developed a database for shared aquifer diagnostic analysis and a strategic action plan to be used for training and management and water balance modelling.

B. Governance

11. The governance cluster, co-coordinated by UNDP, comprises four subclusters, namely: democracy and governance, economic and corporate governance, human rights, and public service and administration.

12. During the review period, the United Nations Democracy Fund continued to strengthen democracy and civil society organizations, notably through 13 projects worth $2.3 million. The Democracy Fund strengthened grass-roots citizen participation in the implementation of decentralization in Cameroon, supported youth empowerment for participation in local governance in Malawi, strengthened young women's civic participation and leadership in Uganda, amplified youth voices in Zimbabwe and improved public policy participation and accountability in Somalia.

13. In the past 12 months, the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) collaborated with ECOWAS on preparations for various elections in the subregion, including in Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria and Togo. In November 2014, UNOWA conducted a mission to Burkina Faso with the African Union and ECOWAS, which supported inclusive dialogue by national stakeholders following the popular uprising in the country. The African Union, United Nations and ECOWAS supported the establishment of the International Follow-up and Support Group for the Transition in Burkina Faso to promote a smooth transition in the country that will lead to elections in October 2015.

14. The Peacebuilding Support Office strengthened its support to the stabilization of countries by raising the ceiling of the Immediate Response Facility to $15 million per country. In the Central African Republic, this support benefited transitional authorities, who used the funding to safeguard core Government services, including the payment of $4.5 million in police and gendarmerie salaries, paralleling the World Bank's payment of salaries for the remainder of the civil service. The Office also supported the voluntary relocation of ex-Séléka combatants from camps in Bangui to their communities of origin. In early 2015, the Office assisted in the organization of the Bangui forum for reconciliation and political dialogue. As a result, public confidence in the transition was enhanced in the country.

15. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) assisted countries in combating illicit trafficking under the framework of the Airport Communication Project and the Global Container Control Programme, both of which were implemented jointly with the World Customs Organization. Joint airport interdiction task forces were installed at priority international airports in Benin, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo, where they have been instrumental in conducting drug seizures.

16. UNODC continued to support Governments in North Africa in their reform processes, particularly in the area of good governance and the rule of law. Since April 2014, in close cooperation with Tunisia, UNODC has continued to implement activities to support criminal justice reform and strengthen the rule of law. UNODC also provided assistance to national authorities in Egypt to establish effective mechanisms to combat money-laundering and facilitate asset recovery. It continued to strengthen the capacity of criminal justice institutions in the Horn of Africa and Indian Ocean region to effectively counter piracy and wider maritime crime. UNODC provided a wide array of support to piracy prosecutions in Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles and the United Republic of Tanzania aimed at ensuring fair and efficient trials and secure, humane detention.

17. On economic governance, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) continued to help African countries to achieve macroeconomic and financial stability by building capacities through training courses and providing financial support through a range

of financing facilities, including the Extended Credit Facility, the Standby Credit Facility, the Rapid Credit Facility and debt relief. As at August 2014, 29 African countries had received irrevocable debt relief equivalent to over $6.5 billion from IMF. The Fund also established the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust in February 2015, from which Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone received $100 million grants for debt relief.

18. To improve the governance of extractive industries, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, together with ECA, UNIDO, the African Union and AfDB, organized a high-level meeting on the theme "Towards the post-2015 development agenda and the African Union Agenda 2063: Enhancing the management of Africa's extractive industries to promote sustainable and inclusive industrial development, structural economic transformation and inclusive and resilient economic growth". The purpose of the event was to strengthen the capacity of African countries to improve the management of natural resources through the implementation of the African Mining Vision, the Action Plan for Accelerated Industrial Development in Africa and the Common African Position on the post-2015 development agenda.

19. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) continued to help 16 African countries[1] in simplifying and automating their rules and procedures relating to investment and entrepreneurship. UNCTAD and UNDP assisted Cameroon in installing the e-regulations system in two more regions, thereby ensuring that simplification measures implemented in the capital also benefit entrepreneurs elsewhere in the country. Both organizations also assisted the Investment Promotion Agency of the United Republic of Tanzania in installing an online registration system, which improved the business climate by reducing the number of administrative steps required to start a business from 21 to just 7.

20. Through its programme for building African capacity for trade, the International Trade Centre (ITC) provided technical expertise to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Business Council to strengthen its capacity for improved dialogue with government with a view to ensuring that the private sector's concerns are taken into consideration in policy formulation and trade negotiations.

21. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) collaborated with the African Union, regional economic communities and other United Nations entities to provide protection and assistance to 13 million refugees, internally displaced and Stateless persons in Africa. UNHCR, ECA, the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Somali diaspora and the wider international community supported a ministerial meeting in August 2014 at which the Addis Ababa Commitment towards Somali Refugees was adopted, marking a milestone in bringing together the Governments of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Uganda and Yemen to address the humanitarian and development aspects required for sustainable solutions for Somali refugees.

22. The joint efforts of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNDP and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in respect of stigma, discrimination and other human rights violations against people

[1] Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, Togo and United Republic of Tanzania.

living with HIV in Africa led to the adoption of a resolution on involuntary sterilization and the protection of human rights in access to HIV services.

23. In West Africa, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), together with AfDB and ECOWAS, developed a regional policy to promote human rights education, education for citizenship and a culture of peace, and education on democracy and its integration in the education systems. In Central Africa, regional guiding principles for education for peace and citizenship were finalized by UNESCO for integration into sector plans and curriculums. In Eastern Africa, several initiatives in the framework of the Global Citizenship Education initiative were developed in Kenya and South Sudan. In Southern Africa, UNESCO continued to reinforce tolerance, combating xenophobia and promoting peaceful coexistence through community radio programmes and a media campaign on gender-based violence and human rights.

C. Peace and security

24. The peace and security cluster, co-chaired by the United Nations Office to the African Union, on behalf of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, comprises four subclusters: the African Peace and Security Architecture, post-conflict reconstruction and development, emergency preparedness and response, and transitional justice.

25. As part of its efforts to enhance subregional capacities for conflict prevention and mediation, the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), with the support of the Mediation Support Standby Team, organized a mediation training workshop for the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) in November 2014. It also engaged with ECCAS to set up a mediation unit and create a roster of mediation experts at the ECCAS secretariat in Gabon. UNOCA contributed to enhancing ECCAS mediation capacity and supporting the operationalization of a mediation architecture.

26. UNOCA was instrumental in bringing the anti-Balaka and ex-Séléka elements back to the negotiating table and facilitating the signing of an agreement on the cessation of hostilities between the parties, during the forum for national reconciliation and political dialogue held in the Republic of the Congo in July 2014. Since then, UNOCA has continued to support leaders in the subregion and Central African stakeholders, in close consultation with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), to facilitate the implementation of the Brazzaville Agreement, and to support them in providing advice to all parties on the next steps of the political process.

27. Similarly, the Department of Political Affairs supported the Mano River Union in the development and subsequent launch of the implementation of the cross-border security strategy in the subregion, including the development of a five-year project, which was adopted by member States of the Mano River Union in Côte d'Ivoire in July 2014. In response to the expansion of Boko Haram activities in the Lake Chad Basin region, UNOWA and UNOCA provided technical support to subregional institutions and the member States affected. In this regard, UNOWA supported the Lake Chad Basin Commission for the development of a comprehensive regional counter-terrorism strategy. UNOWA and UNOCA conducted missions to Chad,

Cameroon and the Niger to assess the impact of Boko Haram and explore ways in which the United Nations could support the affected Governments and the relevant subregional organizations. The Department of Political Affairs was also instrumental in finalizing the operationalization of the Multinational Task Force against Boko Haram in February 2015.

28. In October 2014, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the African Union and UNDP organized the briefing by regional economic communities to United Nations Member States on the role of Africa's regional economic communities in consolidating peace, security, governance and development in the context of Agenda 2063. While underscoring the fundamental implementing role of the regional economic communities, the event contributed to raising awareness on the need for United Nations-enhanced support in strengthening the technical and institutional capacities of the regional economic communities, including for reviewing their respective strategic plans to ensure their alignment with Agenda 2063 and monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Agenda at the regional level.

29. Over the review period, the Peacebuilding Fund supported efforts towards consolidating peace in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Sierra Leone and Uganda. These countries received a combined total of $65.2 million. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Peacebuilding Fund helped in catalysing the revised International Security and Stabilization Support Strategy in the eastern part of the country by emphasizing political dialogue and providing for a multisectoral, area-based approach through two projects in South Kivu Province and Province Orientale aimed at kick-starting the implementation of the revised strategy and securing longer-term stabilization.

30. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat supported the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) in developing a regional disaster-response capacity in Southern and Eastern Africa and a regional humanitarian-response capacity in Eastern Africa for IGAD member States. The Office continued to support United Nations-mandated missions in Africa through the delivery of humanitarian civil-military coordination training, in cooperation with the Integrated Mission Training Centre of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat and other partners. Training was provided to civilian and military mission personnel from the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan to enable improved cooperation and coordination.

31. The Department of Political Affairs pursued its collaboration with ECCAS and ECOWAS to support the development of a comprehensive regional anti-piracy strategy in response to the emerging threat posed by piracy. In support of the steering committee established by ECCAS, ECOWAS and the Gulf of Guinea Commission, the Department contributed to the development of a 2014-2016 action plan in June 2014, the inauguration of the Interregional Coordination Centre for Maritime Security in Cameroon in September 2014 and the operationalization in the Republic of the Congo of the Regional Coordination Centre for Maritime Security in Central Africa in October 2014.

32. The International Maritime Organization (IMO), through its Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme, continued to support counter-piracy measures in

Somalia and the Gulf of Aden, including in the areas of training and capacity-building. Similar efforts are ongoing in the West and Central Africa regions for the Gulf of Guinea. Through combined efforts by all actors, the incidence of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the regions under reference has substantially declined.

33. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) supported several African municipalities in the areas of city crime prevention and urban safety intervention, yielding positive results. The replication of the safer cities model of a programme city in neighbouring cities has been particularly visible in the United Republic of Tanzania, where more than 15 cities have learned from the capital how to develop a safer cities strategy and how to help each other in the urban development space.

D. Agriculture, food security and rural development

34. The agriculture, food security and rural development cluster is co-coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).The cluster helped to enhance the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and African Union activities within the context of the Year of Agriculture and Food Security in Africa proclaimed by the African Union, in line with the Maputo Declaration.

35. The World Food Programme (WFP), together with the African Union Commission and ECA, has continued to implement the Cost of Hunger in Africa Study. In this regard, WFP has played a key role in promoting a cross-continental partnership between Africa and Latin America in an effort to transfer knowledge and experiences from the Cost of Hunger methodology developed in the Latin American and Caribbean region to Africa. At the national level, the results served as the basis for the expansion of national programmes and the implementation of policy frameworks in nutrition. At the regional level, the results from Egypt, Ethiopia, Swaziland and Uganda have been showcased in regional ministerial conferences, demonstrating the economic cost of failing to address nutrition.

36. The World Bank continued to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme at the national and regional levels through the provision of $65.2 million to the Programme's multi-donor trust funds. The World Bank also facilitated the adoption of frameworks for developing and financing initiatives to mainstream climate-smart approaches into country-level plans, programmes and policies. Over the review period, the World Bank lending for agriculture, food security and rural development committed $1.5 billion in Africa, including $495 million for the transformation of irrigation management in Nigeria and $100 million for the transformation of the agriculture sector in Rwanda.

37. WFP has continued to support the third pillar of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, namely, increasing food supply and reducing hunger across the region, by raising smallholder productivity and improving responses to food emergencies. In November 2014, WFP joined other stakeholders in validating the Programme's implementation strategy and road map.

38. IAEA implemented 108 national and 14 regional projects in African States in 2014 to reduce poverty and combat food insecurity through the application of nuclear and isotopic techniques in the areas of the improvement of agricultural productivity, the creation of Tsetse-free zones, combating desertification and crop improvement. For instance, IAEA and FAO assisted the United Republic of Tanzania in using mutation breeding to produce a new variety of rice.

39. The International Labour Organization (ILO) collaborated with FAO to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme framework and rural futures initiatives in Zambia and Malawi. By strengthening the capacity of stakeholders to analyse and address youth and decent employment policy issues with a gender-sensitive and climate-smart perspective, the partners promoted policy, institutional and programme options to improve rural youth employment opportunities and access to markets. In 2014, through a project in Zambia, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) facilitated the identification, transfer, acquisition, adaptation and use of the appropriate technology to harvest rainwater for irrigation and solar energy for producing pure drinking water.

40. The Common Fund for Commodities continued to support smallholder producers and help to increase their productivity through horizontal and vertical diversification, value addition, increasing access to markets and capacity-building in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. In Uganda, the Fund supported a rural engine maize trading and processing company, which has allowed Ugandan producers to enhance their productive capacity by accessing a fully capitalized and integrated supply chain for dried agricultural and financial services provided by the company. In Ghana, the Common Fund for Commodities supported the StarShea Network, which currently has 5,000 women members, by enhancing capacities in quality processing, price communication, supervision of processing and coordination of loading bags for shipment. As a result, this social business model contributed to achieve sustainable improvements in the lives of primary producers of shea nuts.

41. UNIDO continued to support Nigeria in establishing staple crop processing zones. In 2014, six high-quality master plans were developed for the identified project sites. To date, $200 million has been mobilized from the World Bank for the development of sustainable institutions and infrastructure.

42. Against this background, with regard to the 6 per cent growth target for agricultural production set by the Maputo Declaration, 10 African countries have so far achieved or exceeded the target and four countries have achieved 5 to 6 per cent growth. Concerning budgetary allocations, 12 countries have reached or surpassed the 10 per cent budget allocation target, while 13 others are in the 5 to 10 per cent range (see A/69/163). The cluster contributed to bringing nutrition to the centre of the political and development agenda of African countries and advocated for the eradication of hunger and prevention of all forms of malnutrition on the continent through the review of the African Regional Nutrition Strategy 2015-2025.

E. Industry, trade and market access

43. The industry, trade and market access cluster, co-chaired by UNIDO, supported African regional and sub-regional organizations in building productive capacity for trade, market access and continent-wide sustainable industrialization.

44. UNCTAD, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat and African Export-Import Bank, has completed a project on promoting regional value chains in sub-Saharan Africa, which resulted in the identification of regional value chains for the leather and leather products industry to improve export competitiveness and domestic value addition and generate employment for low-skilled labour in many African countries.

45. ITC contributed to enhancing regional integration, trade development and export promotion by identifying sectors with high potential to increase intraregional trade. As a result, a regional leather strategy was developed in COMESA and targeted services were provided to small and medium-sized enterprises in the leather sector to reach new markets.

46. Together with other United Nations entities, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States supported Benin to organize a ministerial meeting on new partnerships for the development of productive capacities in least developed countries in Cotonou in July 2014. The meeting created political momentum in support of the least developed country development agenda, particularly in respect of productive capacity-building and all its dimensions.

47. The World Trade Organization (WTO) provided support to the specific needs of the nine acceding African countries. WTO reference centres — information points in developing and least developed countries where trade-related information can be accessed and information from WTO is disseminated to national stakeholders — were upgraded in 2014. Through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries, WTO and partners contributed to building institutional trade capacity in line with the rise in the number of Enhanced Integrated Framework tier 1 projects, which increased from 29 at the end of 2010 to 58 by early 2015. Similarly, tier 2 projects increased from 1 at the end of 2011 to 36, building up the trade-related and supply side capacity of African countries.

48. With the financial support of Sweden, UNCTAD assisted many African countries in preparing for the implementation of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation. UNCTAD, ITC and WTO, as well as regional organizations, including the East African Community and West African Economic and Monetary Union, conducted a gap analysis with regard to the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. This enabled countries to prepare formal notifications to the WTO secretariat.

49. In 2014, under the UNCTAD Automated System for Customs Data programme, numerous capacity-building training activities on the data system were organized for national customs administrations, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the system and allowing 26 African countries to increase customs revenues collection and drastically reduce clearing times and costs.

F. Environment, population and urbanization

50. The cluster on environment, population and urbanization, co-coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), continued to address challenges relating to environmental degradation, population growth and migration, the rapid growth of cities and the lack of demographic statistics.

51. During the review period, the cluster raised awareness on the importance of enhancing agricultural productivity and food security to combat desertification in Africa. Cluster members also conducted assessment reports on the development of the green economy in several African countries, highlighting such key challenges as financing, capacity-building and technology transfer. According to the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism, African countries integrated pro-environmental sustainability into national development plans. About half of the African countries have reached the target of protecting at least 10 per cent of their territorial and marine areas. A total of 53 African countries have completed national biodiversity strategies and action plans and two thirds are developing or implementing national forest programmes.

52. UNEP supported the African Union on institutional capacity-building through the programme on multilateral environmental agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. In addition, UNEP took the lead in the development of regional flagship programmes, namely, the African Green Economy Partnership, the Partnership for Sustainable Consumption and Production in Africa and the Africa Integrated Environmental Assessment for Sustainable Development. These programmes helped to accelerate the implementation of the Environment Initiative action plan by addressing environmental challenges, poverty alleviation and socioeconomic development simultaneously.

53. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification developed indicators to monitor progress enabling African countries to advance towards land degradation neutrality. In addition, it continued to combat land degradation and enable sustainable land management activities and investment frameworks at the national level based on the national action programmes elaborated by member countries. The World Bank supported the secretariat of the TerrAfrica Initiative with $2 million during the review period and through the development of an African knowledge platform, assessment of the status of countries' strategic investment frameworks and the organization of events at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in December 2014. As a result, TerrAfrica provided more efficient and effective support to 24 countries on sustainable land and water management.

54. The World Bank's support for the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative was reinforced by a six-year regional hub project facilitating South-South cooperation on knowledge and operational services with the aim of restoring the viability of ecosystems and production systems in 11 African countries by 2025.

55. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, through coordination, advocacy and evidence, prepared the ground for a consolidated African position on the post-2015 disaster risk reduction framework, critical to linking disaster risk reduction and resilience to the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, sustainable development goals and climate change agreements.

56. In Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania, the World Meteorological Organization increased the resilience of people most vulnerable to the impacts of climate-related hazards with a focus on agriculture and food security, health and disaster risk reduction. As a result, a steering committee for climate services was established in the United Republic of Tanzania, the seasonal forecast was downscaled to the district level for the programme target districts and agricultural extension workers and journalists were trained to understand and disseminate the seasonal forecast.

57. The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) promoted the competitiveness and sustainability of tourism in Africa through the promotion of tourism as a tool for development, enhancing connectivity, managing risks and supporting the development of the African Union-NEPAD Tourism Action Plan. At the 56th meeting of the UNWTO Regional Commission for Africa, held in Angola, African tourism ministers addressed some of the critical issues related to bridging air transport and tourism policies as well as the development of a tourism policy and strategy within the framework of Agenda 2063.

58. UN-Habitat provided national and local governments with tools for measuring and increasing resilience to multi-hazard impacts, including those associated with climate change. UN-Habitat and ECA supported Portuguese-speaking African countries through its urban risk reduction and resilience-building programme aimed at increasing municipal capacity. In this context, UN-Habitat and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) supported the building of risk-resilient, safe and child-friendly schools in hazard-prone areas in Mozambique in late 2014.

59. In May 2014, within the framework of the Economic and Social Council integration segment on sustainable urbanization, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and partners organized a panel discussion on sustainable urbanization in Africa. As a result, key policy recommendations were made for the post-2015 development agenda and the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), scheduled for 2016.

G. Social and human development

60. The cluster on social and human development, co-coordinated by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), provided support through the six subclusters, namely, health, HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases; education and human resources; gender and development; social welfare and human trafficking; labour and employment; and sport and culture.

61. Since the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease in West Africa, the United Nations system, in close collaboration with international, regional, subregional and national partners, provided comprehensive support, including through the establishment of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response, to stop the outbreak, treat the infected and launch recovery. UNOWA, in close collaboration with and support to ECOWAS, increased its engagement with the Mano River Union countries to facilitate the United Nations response to the Ebola virus disease outbreak.

62. The World Bank mobilized nearly $1 billion for the countries hit by the epidemic. To help to contain the Ebola virus disease and provide a coordinated international response for the travel and tourism sector, the World Health Organization (WHO), ICAO, UNWTO, the International Air Transport Association and the World Travel and Tourism Council activated a travel and transport task force to closely monitor the situation and provide timely information to the travel and tourism sector. IAEA provided specialized diagnostic equipment to help Sierra Leone and Liberia to combat the outbreak. Through partnership with the West African Health Organization, UNICEF supported the three affected countries to control the Ebola outbreak and assisted the non-affected countries to develop and implement preparedness measures.

63. The Secretary-General launched the Ebola recovery assessment process through UNDP to prepare the global response for the Ebola recovery in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, in consultation with ECA, the World Bank, the Peacebuilding Support Office, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNESCO and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and in close collaboration with the African Union, ECOWAS and the Mano River Union. As a result, a series of consultations were held and key priorities for intervention and support for the recovery were identified. The assessment paved the way for the implementation of a comprehensive international response led and owned by the three countries. The World Bank created the multi-donor Ebola Recovery and Reconstruction Trust Fund.

64. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) provided technical and financial support for renewed commitment to accelerate the reduction of maternal mortality. This includes the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa, which is the key advocacy initiative in promoting investments in women's health. As a result, 44 African countries have launched the campaign. UNFPA and other partners also supported the African Union Commission in the launch of the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage, which is a two-year campaign to accelerate the process by enhancing continental awareness of the effects of this practice.

65. UNAIDS continued to support the implementation of the 2012 African Union road map on shared responsibility and global solidarity for the AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria response. As a result, in Eastern and Southern Africa, 16 countries developed their own national road maps and more than 70 per cent of the AIDS budget in Botswana, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia and South Africa is now covered by domestic resources.

66. UNICEF supported the preparation of recommendations on children and social protection systems in Africa, which were endorsed at the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union, in January 2015. The recommendations included the need to embed social protection in national development plans and expenditure frameworks and to define a social protection floor and a minimum package of services and benefits prioritizing the rights of children in poverty. In child survival and development, UNICEF provided technical support to strengthening the decentralized health-care systems in Djibouti, Egypt and the Sudan. As a result, in October 2014, Egypt rolled out an evidence-based approach focused on real-time monitoring of the removal of barriers and bottlenecks to accessing perinatal health-care services.

67. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs continued to support African countries in a wide range of social development priorities outlined in the Social Policy Framework for Africa, the African Common Position on Social Integration, the African Common Position on Good Practices in Family Policy Development and Implementation and the Continental Plan of Action for the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2010-2019). The Department also continued strengthening the institutional capacities of the African public sector. As a result, over 1,600 human resource managers from 46 African countries benefited from the capacity-building workshops held in Benin, Botswana, Ethiopia, Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania.

68. UNESCO implemented projects in many African countries, including Cameroon, Namibia, Nigeria, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, that focused on strengthening the development of sector-wide policies and planning to improve their teacher policy, with a particular attention to equity, inclusion, gender, teacher training and the harmonization of their ongoing development programmes.

69. UNIDO has been implementing a $1.4 million project in Liberia to help to tackle youth unemployment and the lack of quality vocational education and well-trained technical personnel by upgrading Liberia's training infrastructure. The project included a fully operational training school in Kakata, Margibi County and training for 148 diesel technicians and 84 machine operators as at July 2014.

70. WTO continued to build the capacities of African trade officials through a number of national and regional activities. Almost 1,000 candidates were trained through approximately 50 activities. National and regional activities, including regional and advanced trade policy courses, benefited more than 300 African government officials.

71. IAEA awarded 326 fellowships and 127 scientific visits, delivering more than 1,143 months of training in Africa in the areas of health, food and agriculture, water resource management and sustainable energy development from May 2014 to January 2015. It also conducted 73 training courses in these areas, with a total of 1,197 participants.

H. Science and technology

72. The science and technology cluster, co-coordinated by UNESCO, supported the implementation of Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action, which is built on three pillars, namely, capacity-building, knowledge production and technological innovation.

73. UNESCO supported seven African countries in designing science technology and innovation policy instruments, providing advisory services on science technology and innovation policy and formulating science technology and innovation laws. UNESCO also supported research institute networks to enhance short- and long-term education in emerging areas of nanotechnology, climate change science and engineering. Furthermore, UNESCO partnered with Panasonic and Japan to train experts and policymakers from several African countries to implement a solar electrification system in 75 rural schools and build capacity in renewable energy policy and technologies.

74. The World Bank supported NEPAD in addressing the data gap, rebalancing post-secondary education towards the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics and closing the gender gap in those areas.

75. ITU, through the Connect a School, Connect a Community initiative, supported the NEPAD E-Schools Initiative. Sponsored by France and Switzerland, ITU provided information and communications technology equipment, delivered information and communications technology courses for children and trained more than 213 teachers at 71 sites in the Gambia, Lesotho, the Niger, Sierra Leone and the United Republic of Tanzania. The projects improved information and communications technology access for schoolchildren and local community members, teachers' information and communications technology skills and school administration through information and communications technology.

I. Communication, advocacy and outreach

76. The advocacy and communications cluster, co-chaired by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, continued to promote public information on and undertake advocacy for NEPAD priorities and the popularization of Agenda 2063.

77. In October 2014, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, together with the Department of Public Information, ECA, the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Agency, organized Africa Week 2014 at United Nations Headquarters in New York to raise awareness and mobilize support at the global level for the implementation of Africa's peace, governance and development priorities, including Agenda 2063, NEPAD and the African Peer Review Mechanism. The week featured a series of high-level events, which identified how the international community can support the implementation of and accountability for Agenda 2063 and called for coherence between Agenda 2063 and the post-2015 development agenda. Development partners were urged to meet their ODA commitments, intensify efforts to address illicit financial flows and increase investment to cover NEPAD infrastructure projects. The week culminated with a renewed commitment to the implementation of NEPAD and the African Peer Review Mechanism at the general debate on the development of Africa.

78. Six knowledge products on African development were also launched during the week. In addition, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, ECA and the Department of Public Information organized a panel discussion to launch the African Union-ECA *Economic Report on Africa 2014* and raise awareness on African emerging development issues. These products along with the UNCTAD report *Economic Development in Africa Report 2014: Catalysing Investment for Transformative Growth in Africa* served to strengthen the capacity of Member States to formulate evidence-based policy.

79. In October 2014, the Secretary-General and President of the World Bank visited the Horn of Africa, accompanied by the President of the Islamic Development Bank and senior representatives of AfDB, the African Union and the European Union. During the visit, the delegation stressed the importance of development in promoting peace, security and stability, launched the Horn of Africa Initiative and pledged to mobilize more than $8 billion over the coming years to promote stability and development in the Horn.

80. During the review period, the Department of Public Information highlighted the priorities, achievements and challenges facing NEPAD through 118 feature articles in *Africa Renewal* magazine published in English and French and republished more than 1,780 times in 489 different media outlets in 52 countries worldwide. The Department also strengthened its outreach activities on Africa using original content for its social media platforms on themes such as trade, infrastructure development and combating the Ebola virus.

81. The United Nations Governance Centre hosted a series of high-level platforms in Egypt, Ethiopia and Ghana on corporate sustainability and the role of the private sector in advancing the broader United Nations development goals. The Centre launched the Africa Sustainability Initiative in June 2014 to mobilize private sector participation in key areas of development in support of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, including youth unemployment, infrastructure development and inclusive investment. In September 2014, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa partnered with Africa Investor and the Global Partnerships Forum to raise awareness on investment opportunities in Africa among international investors through the African Heads of State and Government investment dialogue.

82. In support of the African Union's Year of Agriculture and Food Security, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa partnered with the African Union, the NEPAD Agency and FAO to organize a high-level panel discussion on the topic "Transforming Africa's Agriculture for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods: Strengthening the African Union/United Nations Partnership for Tangible Impact", held in May 2014. The event enhanced understanding about the role of Member States and development partners in advancing Africa's agriculture transformation towards mobilizing support for the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme.

III. Policy issues in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

A. Strengthening of the cluster system and enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union

83. During the reporting period, the United Nations system took several steps to strengthen the nine clusters and their subclusters, refocus the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union and enhance United Nations support to the African Union and its organs. In order to allow United Nations leadership to directly engage with Africa's senior national authorities, the annual meeting of the Regional Coordination Mechanism was aligned with the joint annual meetings of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance for the first time.

84. In order to adapt to the changing global landscape and to African priorities, steps were taken towards reconfiguring Regional Coordination Mechanism clusters, taking into account the budgetary and capacity requirements, and aligning them with the African Union Commission Strategic Plan 2014-2017 and the NEPAD Strategic Plan 2014-2017 in the short term, the 10-Year Implementation Plan for Agenda 2063 in the medium term and Agenda 2063 in the long term.

85. Steps were also taken towards establishing a programme known as the Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda as the successor to the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union.

B. Support to the mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

86. The United Nations system continued to support the implementation of the African Union-NEPAD domestic resource mobilization strategy. The High-Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, supported by ECA, was endorsed at the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union, held in January 2015. The report of the Panel estimates that more than $50 billion leaves Africa annually in illicit flows and recommends ways of curbing the outflow. Many African countries have improved the efficiency and effectiveness of their revenue mobilization efforts by broadening their tax base and by establishing autonomous revenue authorities and enhancing governance in the management of resources. In 2013, domestic revenue collection exceeded $570 billion (see A/69/163).

87. UNDP supported the African Union and the NEPAD Agency in the preparation of African countries for, and their participation in, the High-Level Meeting on Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation: Building Towards an Inclusive Post-2015 Development Agenda, held in Mexico in April 2014. UNDP contributed to consolidate Africa's priorities into a common position within the Africa Action Plan on Development Effectiveness. As a result, African member States succeeded in having African priorities reflected in the outcome document of the meeting and in securing the global community's commitment to support disaster risk management agenda beyond the tax matter.

88. In May 2014, the Office of the Special Adviser for Africa, along with Japan, the African Union Commission, UNDP and the World Bank, co-organized the first ministerial meeting of the fifth Tokyo International Conference on Africa's Development, at which the implementation matrix of the Yokohama Action Plan 2013-2017 was adopted. To support the implementation of the matrix, Japan has disbursed $3.5 billion in ODA, representing 25 per cent of the $14 billion in ODA committed at the Conference, as a part of the overall $32 billion that was pledged.

C. Cross-cutting issues

89. During the review period, the United Nations system continued to support the capacity development of African institutions, women and youth empowerment.

90. UNESCO supported efforts to promote women's participation in science and engineering through the award of fellowships to distinguished women scientists and engineers to pursue high-level research. The Peacebuilding Support Office launched its second Gender Promotion Initiative to deepen support for women's empowerment and gender equality, which resulted in the selection of nine projects in Guinea, Mali and Somalia. These projects received a total of $3 million in additional country support.

91. UN-Women is supporting the NEPAD Agency's gender and climate support programme aimed at facilitating access to climate adaptation knowledge by women

farmers. UN-Women supported the development of the NEPAD gender mainstreaming framework in agriculture, which was piloted through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and is to be presented for adoption by all member States of the African Union in 2016. Moreover, following the participation of UN-Women in the NEPAD Conference for Women in Agriculture: Investing in African Women: Opening the Space for Agribusiness, held in South Africa in October 2014, a fund for the capacity development of rural women was established by NEPAD to support smallholder farmers in agribusiness activities.

92. UNODC, together with the SADC secretariat, worked to implement programme initiatives on trafficking in persons, gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS treatment, prevention and care in prisons. A situational assessment on gender-based violence in Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe was endorsed by the SADC Gender Unit and led to the prioritization of activities to combat gender-based violence reflected in the national action plans of participating countries.

93. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the African Union Commission, the Department of Public Information and UNDP co-organized two high-level events, which were held at the margins of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2015. One was on the proposed continental results framework on women, peace and security and the second was on the emerging leadership of Africa's young women and girls towards 2063. These complementary events focused on the priorities of African women and girls in the areas of peace, security, leadership and development and highlighted efforts and good practices as well as challenges in the implementation of these agendas in Africa.

94. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNDP, organized the 2014 and 2015 Economic and Social Council Youth Forums. The theme of the 2014 forum, held in June, was "Realizing the future they want" and the theme of the 2015 forum, held in February, was "Time for global action". These events provided a platform to advocate for and ensure that African youth development issues are considered in the post-2015 development agenda process.

95. As part of its pilot cross-border peacebuilding support programmes, the Peacebuilding Support Office funded activities in the Niger border region with Mali through the project "Youth, peace and development". More than 1,500 young people, including 305 women, have benefited from income generation opportunities towards the consolidation of peace.

D. Institutional support

96. ECA continued to support Africa's preparation of Agenda 2063 and collaborated with the NEPAD Agency in holding two high-level dialogues to sensitize Africa's planners on issues pertaining to the Agenda.

97. To strengthen the capacity of the NEPAD Agency in key priority areas and enhance the NEPAD process, ECA continued the secondment of two senior advisers to the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism and the NEPAD Agency to provide direct technical support and advisory services. ECA and UNDP also continued their direct support to the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism.

98. UNDP has supported the NEPAD Agency in facilitating regular interactions between the African members of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and with the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. UNDP and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa have also been providing support to the African Group in the negotiation process by providing logistic, technical and communication support.

99. FAO provided a Senior Policy Adviser to assist the African Union Commission in the preparation of the Post-Malabo Implementation Strategy and Road Map and, in particular, the commitment to end hunger in Africa by 2025, in line with the recent agreement by the two institutions to focus their collaboration in four key areas: supporting the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme process in the framework of the Malabo Implementation Strategy and Road Map; establishing a centre for best practice; South-South cooperation and capacity development; and organizing think tank events for strategic implementation.

100. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs contributed to building foundations for NEPAD by facilitating a continued dialogue between United Nations agencies and other stakeholders in order to strengthen partnerships for humanitarian action in the framework of the Ten-Year Capacity-building Programme for the African Union. The collaboration between the Office and the African Union brokered a multi-stakeholder dialogue that, through the regional consultations leading to the World Humanitarian Summit, elucidates and buttresses the strategic linkages among peace, security and development and strengthens the case for effective humanitarian action in Africa in order to achieve the NEPAD goals.

101. UNODC assisted the African Union in the implementation of its Plan of Action on Drug Control (2013-2018). UNODC has also expanded its cooperation with the NEPAD Agency the regional economic communities and their member States through the development and endorsement of multi-year regional programmes on drugs and crime under the auspices of ECOWAS, the League of Arab States and SADC.

E. Challenges and constraints

102. Resource constraints remained a major challenge as far as the full implementation of clusters' business plans and capacity-building support was concerned. There is still no specific budget allocation for the activities of the clusters, while inter-cluster collaboration remains a work in progress. The mechanism to share experiences between clusters is not yet fully operational, resulting in delayed inter-cluster collaboration and communication on cross-cutting issues. The main obstacle remains the appointment of a focal point or dedicated staff to facilitate inter-cluster communication.

103. In addition, the joint secretariat of the Regional Coordination Mechanism required further strengthening for effective cluster coordination, including monitoring the implementation of the Ten-Year Capacity-building Programme for the African Union. Furthermore, many clusters were faced with the challenge of elaborating joint programmes for maximum impact, despite constraints in programming cycles, the lack of a common funding pool and differences in the mandates of the individual governing bodies.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

104. The United Nations system continues to provide substantial support to the priority areas of NEPAD, at both the global and regional levels, through the nine clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism and through the funding of programmes and projects, capacity- and institution-building activities, policy advisory services, resource mobilization, advocacy and humanitarian assistance.

105. The United Nations system enhanced coordination and coherence in support of NEPAD priorities in such areas as agriculture and food security, infrastructure development and peace and stability and in socioeconomic sectors such as the empowerment of women and health. In particular, the role of the United Nations system in response to the Ebola virus disease outbreak was exemplary.

106. There are persisting resource and adaptation challenges in the face of the new global and regional development priorities and notably in view of the ongoing processes of the sustainable development goals, the post-2015 development agenda, the third International Conference on Financing for Development and the twenty-first Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Paris. The African Union's transformative Agenda 2063, adopted in January 2015, calls for more coherence and coordination of the United Nations system support for Africa's development, including for NEPAD. Also, the United Nations system should provide support towards the implementation and monitoring of Agenda 2063 and its 10-year action plans through harmonization with subregional and regional architectures in Africa, including the regional economic communities and the NEPAD Agency, at the strategic and operational levels.

107. In view of the increasing role entrusting the regional economic communities to shape, adopt and implement the Agenda 2063 10-year action plans, and the appointment by the African Union of a special representative to the regional economic communities, the United Nations should attach greater importance to enhancing the capacity and ability of the communities in this regard.

108. Since 2015 coincides with the African Union's Year for Women's Empowerment and Development towards Agenda 2063, the twentieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and the midpoint of the African Women's Decade, the United Nations system should further strengthen its coordination and enhance its support towards accelerating the implementation of all commitments relating to gender equality and women's empowerment made in these frameworks.

109. In line with the African Women's Decade, the United Nations system should further support the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda in Africa and of Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year action plan.

110. The United Nations system should also promote the integration of gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda and enhance its global advocacy efforts for African women and girls.

111. In line with the global response to the Ebola outbreak, the United Nations system should further enhance coordination and efforts to implement the comprehensive strategy for "getting down to and staying at zero" cases of Ebola by developing containment plans and adopting early warning and disease surveillance systems to prevent any recurrence and spread of the virus.

112. In view of the severe socioeconomic impacts of Ebola in West Africa, the United Nations system should also enhance its support for the global recovery response for Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to ensure a rapid and safe resumption of basic services, while also addressing structural health and non-health weaknesses, including agriculture, food and nutrition security, education, peacebuilding and State-building. The United Nations system should further support African health-care systems, as the Ebola outbreak has revealed their weaknesses.

113. The United Nations system should further enhance its support towards the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, with particular attention to the Dakar Agenda for Action and the 16 priority projects. In line with the high-level thematic debate on the promotion of investment in Africa and its catalytic role in achieving Africa's development objectives, the United Nations system should support the mobilization of resources by fostering public-private partnerships, infrastructure project preparation and the establishment of an enabling investment environment.

114. The United Nations system should enhance its support towards Africa's structural transformation, as envisaged in Agenda 2063, with particular attention to inclusive and sustainable industrial development. It is also critical to support the development of productive capacity, including energy for industrialization, while building the capacity to foster value addition and natural resource management.

115. In line with the peace, security and development support, the United Nations system should strengthen its support to the African Peer Review Mechanism to foster good political, economic and corporate governance in Africa.

116. The United Nations system should also continue to engage all Member States as the international community works towards adopting a new, meaningful agreement on climate change in Paris in December 2015.